

KANSAS AGITATOR.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL MONOPOLIES

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Rules of the AGITATOR PIANO CONTEST

- 1 The lady contestant must be a resident of Anderson county.
- 2 This contest is open to married, as well as unmarried ladies.
- 3 Subscriptions, advertising space and job work will be credited to the one turning them in or causing them to be handed in, at one vote for each cent.
- 4 The conditions of this contest are strictly cash. Subscriptions must be cash in advance, advertising to be paid at the end of the month and job work upon delivery.
- 5 For each ten cents paid us for advertising we will issue to the firm doing the advertising, as upon good for twenty-five votes, which, in turn, will be issued by them to any contestant, or person representing the contestant, with each twenty-five cents trading done by them with said firm. These coupons are then turned in to us and credited to the contestant sending them in.
- 6 The management of this contest will keep contestants posted as to the firms holding contest coupons, so they may at all times know where to obtain coupons by trade, or where they may direct their friends to go to obtain them.
- 7 No relative of the editors of this paper will be allowed to compete. The contest will be perfectly fair and square in every detail.
- 8 The judges in this contest will consist of three disinterested parties, who will count the votes immediately at the close of the contest.
- 9 The piano will remain at Mr. Mardock's music store, where it may be examined and tried, until the close of the count, when it will be removed by us to the home of the fortunate lady who wins it.
- 10 The contestant receiving the piano must have been credited with at least fifty yearly to subscriptions turned in her account by herself or friends.
- 11 In addition to issuing coupons on all advertisements sent or brought in, we will credit the contestant bringing, or causing to be brought, advertisements, one vote for each and every cent the advertisement amounts to.
- 12 Advertisements from anywhere in the county will be accepted. Job work and subscriptions from any where on earth will be credited to the contestant causing them to be sent.
- 13 No subscription for less than six months accepted upon the conditions of the contest.
- 14 The subscription price of the AGITATOR is one dollar per year; six months, fifty cents. If these rules do not cover all cases, we will do what we think is fair and just. Don't ask anything unfair or unreasonable—it will not be considered. If there is anything not clear to you, call and ask us about it or drop us a postal and it will receive our prompt attention.

JO McDILL'S MUSINGS.

BOODLERS AND BOODLER-HUNTING.

A certain class of newspapers continually brag of the devotion of the press to the people's interests. Time may have been when the newspapers were true to the people. To-day, fidelity to the people is not one of the virtues of the popular newspaper. Of the great dailies, Hearst's and a few others are the only papers of large circulation that are not owned by the politicians, and, since the mergers or "captains of industry" are the real owners of the larger number of papers. The "captains" have even captured a large number of the farmers' papers, and have considerable influence over the religious papers. Only the reform papers have remained true to principle.

Within the last year, a new foe to the robber captains has arisen, in several of the monthly magazines. McClure's, Everybody's, The Cosmopolitan, Success and The Metropolitan are among the number that do not hold to the doctrine of the divine right of monopoly to gobble up the earth and its fullness.

Steffens, Phillips, Lawson, Walker, and last, but not least, Ida M. Tarbell, have been showing up the "captains" in their true light. Steffens shows, in McClure's, that, in every case of boodling, some one of the "captains" was the man who offered and furnished the boodle. Some of the boodlers were in the United States senate. Spooner, of Wisconsin, said to be the ablest man in the business of creating captains, was a regular lobbyist, for years, in the Wisconsin legislature. A United States senator by the name of Sawyer, now dead, was at the head of a big steal organization known as the "Business League." Lumber, land, franchises and any other thing that would yield immense profits at little cost were the things sought after, not only in the state legislatures, but in congress. Spooner was a lieutenant under Sawyer, and when Sawyer died, Spooner became head. There was only one Republican of prominence in Wisconsin who could not be bought. That man's name is La Follette. It is in the Devil's unwritten bible that "every man has his price." La Follette could not be bought at any price, and, so, the robber league had to fight. So far, La Follette is on top, because the people are honest and believe in honesty.

The uprising in Missouri and Wisconsin goes to prove that the captains have deceived the people through the politicians and newspapers.

From recent developments, I conclude that there is a gang of thieves in every state in the Union, organized by the "captains of industry," and whose operations are carried on through the boodling political hell-spawn. The newspapers have been, and are, an invaluable ally, and, as Steffens pointed out, the little one-horse sheets accepted bribes in the form of setting up falsehoods at so much per line.

There never was a bribe-taker until there was a bribe-giver. The "captains" have debauched the country in so far as it could be debauched, and an awakening and a reaction are due to the magazines, and to such men as Folk and La Follette. Folk and La Follette own themselves, and are above price.



THE ELVES' HALLOWE'EN

WHEN Hallowe'en is almost past,
And earthlings seek their beds at last,
The fairy folk come out to play
At mortal pranks at peep of day.

The witches bring their clever cats,
The banshees don their nicest hats,
In festal raiment all are there,
The spooks and goblins everywhere.

The fairies sail the punch-bowls wide,
Nutcracker steeds the brownies ride,
In silver cups gnomes melt the lead,
And bogies bob for apples red.

They have enlivened human fun,
And, when allotted tasks are done,
Are quite entitled, so they feel,
To celebrate in style genteel.

At early cock-crow, witch and gnome,
In lively haste, must scurry home,
And all declare they always mean
To thus enjoy each Hallowe'en.

—C. W., in New Idea Woman's Magazine.



Every man who deserves to be called an American believes in honesty, and that accounts for the enthusiasm such men inspire when they appeal to the common people. And yet, these men have only done their plain, sworn duty. Why is it that such a very few men of our day and generation have distinguished themselves as men above price—men who fearlessly discharge the duties of their offices? Can it be that the "captains" have carried their thieving to such fine dimensions as to own the whole political machinery of city, state and nation? When Folk was elected prosecuting attorney, dishonest prosecuting attorneys had been in office so long that an honest prosecutor was deemed an impossibility. Folk was a disagreeable surprise—to the boodlers of St. Louis.

Was it the French-Scotch-Irish blood of La Follette (martyr blood) that caused him to engage in political war with one of the most corrupt, unscrupulous and well-fortified rings that ever cursed a free people?

There are better things than money, and, while it doesn't pay, in dollars and cents, to be

a reformer, it does pay in self-approved manhood and patriotism and in the approval and love of the mass of fellow countrymen.

For Folk and La Follette to attempt to correct the great abuses of government places them in the front rank of statesmanship and patriotism. They rise far above the tens of thousands of office-holders in the United States in all that is noble, right and true.

No sort of a government can be a good government in the hands of boodlers. A boodlers' government is the government of anarchists.

We are not forgetting that the United States fell into the hands of the "captains of industry" through the measures of the party to which President Roosevelt belongs, and through a failure to enforce such laws as would have tended to restrain the rapacity of the vaunted captains.

According to Will Allen White, things in Washington have been getting worse for thirty years, and according to Lincoln, corruption was bad in '64. War times were the "captains' opportunity. While patriotic men were fighting for their country, the "captains"

were raiding the country. A slight glance at the history of the Republican machine will show that the reformers of that party have all been slaughtered through falsehood, the newspapers being the medium. On a few occasions, the Democratic machine has been used. The Sherman anti-trust law brought forth Cleveland, a reformer of vast dimensions as to neck and abdomen. The Republican machine is being used in Missouri to defeat Folk. La Follette was forced to create a machine of his own, in which there are Democrats. Folk is creating a machine in Missouri. Honest machines are a necessity if dishonesty is to be driven from politics.

Roosevelt is not "safe." Parker is "safe." If enough people can be debauched, Roosevelt will not be the next president. We will have another era of Cleveland reform, and then, all the devilry done in this country will be blamed on the Democratic party. The "captains" are not particular, like the deluded voters, as to names of parties. It is deeds, and the deeds must all conform to their wishes. "On to Washington!" Washington is the key to the situation. Congress and the supreme court in the hands of the "captains," and the people may be damned. But (and there's the rub) the president has some law, and there is exposure to be feared. A president must lie low and keep his mouth shut; otherwise, he will need a machine of his own, with the people backing it, in any reform.

The magazines are furnishing the proof of what has long been suspected, viz., that the majority party in every state has played into the hands of the "captains." Boodling has become the rule rather than the exception, and government is becoming a farce. A fatal delusion seems to have enveloped the minds of the common people.

The mob, set on by the leaders, went raving mad in their hatred of the Nazarene, but the Nazarene was only a preacher of righteousness, a healer of the sick and a savior of souls.

The mob, set on by the "captains," have howled down every reformer that has appeared since the days of Lincoln. Are we growing wiser? Are Folk and La Follette the forerunners of a new and better era? We hope so and take courage.

Down with the "captains," who furnish the bribes! Down with the men who take bribes or insert grafts! Down with the newspapers that publish lies and conceal the truth!

Col. Bryan has been severely criticised by some of his party associates because he said Nebraska would give its electoral vote to Roosevelt. What is to be done about the New York Herald, a staunch supporter of Parker, which declares that he can't be elected?—Topeka State Journal (Rep.)

EAT AT THE RED LIGHT—

R. L. ADAMS,

UNDERTAKING

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